

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2010

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Office of Historic Preservation Presented Twelve Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

WHO: Office of Historic Preservation

WHAT: Presentation of the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards for excellence in historic preservation

WHEN: 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2010

WHERE: Leland Stanford State Historic Park (Ballroom)
800 N Street (8th and N Streets)
Sacramento

California's State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) has presented the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards since 1986, when the program was established by Governor George Deukmejian. Since their inception, the awards have differed from other preservation award programs in two important respects: They emphasize involvement by community groups and recognize a broad array of preservation activities, from building rehabilitation to archaeology, to interpretation, to preservation planning. These two characteristics form the mission statement for the OHP program. The awards exist to give praise to the hundreds of groups and local agencies performing varying types of important preservation work throughout the state, usually without the recognition they deserve.

This year, OHP presented awards to 12 groups throughout California:

- **City of Fresno Planning & Development Department, *Architecture, Ethnicity & Historic Landscapes of California's San Joaquin Valley*, Fresno.** This remarkable publication, assembled to provide local background for those attending the national meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum in May, 2008, includes articles by local, state, and nationally-known authors. It celebrates the architecture, ethnic history,

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and landscapes unique to the San Joaquin Valley and merits recognition as an exceptionally thorough examination of the social and physical landscape of a major California region.

- **Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles, South Los Angeles Multiple Property Survey of Historic Resources Associated with African Americans, Los Angeles.** This award recognizes the extraordinary steps the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles has taken to document the contributions of African Americans to the development of South LA, a major redevelopment area. The agency hired a consultant to develop a historic context statement and a National Register Multiple Property Submission for three historic districts and eight individual buildings associated with settlement of the area by African Americans. The study gained national attention as a model for how to list in the National Register properties associated with underrepresented groups.
- **UCLA's Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, the Geophysical Archaeometry Laboratory of Woodland Hills, and La Senora Research Institute, Pasqual Marquez Family Cemetery Geoarcheological Historical Research Project, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills.** This award recognizes a volunteer effort by some of the best-known archaeological institutes in California, who donated time and materials to help establish the likely location of graves in one of the oldest cemeteries in California. The Marquez cemetery is essentially all that remains of the earliest settlement of Santa Monica by the Marquez family. Dean Goodman of the Geophysical Archaeometry Laboratory brought a diverse together a diverse crew of volunteers that included fourth graders from a nearby school and descendants of the Marquez to assist him as he used ground penetrating radar (GPR). Information from the radar was combined with oral and archival research to identify the likely location of graves and the ruins of the original adobe within cemetery boundaries.
- **City of Monrovia, Wild Rose Tract Historic District, Monrovia.** This award recognizes the success of the City of Monrovia in achieving local designation for its first historic district. The City's landmark program is essentially voluntary as the council will not approve a listing without the owner's consent or, in the case of a district, consent of 51 percent of the owners. The City of Monrovia decided to pursue designation of this cluster of Craftsman homes on the 300 block of Wildrose Avenue, a likely candidate for district status as it was unified architecturally and historically and nine of the fifteen homes had already been individually designated. In the end, all property owners supported designation of the historic district.

- **Gregory Ain Mar Vista Tract HPOZ, Gregory Ain Mar Vista Tract Website, Los Angeles.** Los Angeles has 24 historic districts designated as Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs). The Mar Vista Tract, a single-family residential development built to FHA standards for modest-income families, is the City's first post-World War II HPOZ. Advertised as "Modernique Homes," it exemplifies architect Gregory Ain's desire to create distinctive yet cost-efficient housing using Modern design elements. The unique park-like character of the tract is achieved through the imaginative integration of buildings and noted Modernist Garrett Eckbo's landscape design. The award recognizes the Mar Vista HPOZ website team for its innovative use of digital technology to promote preservation and provide an online research center with blueprints, colors, landscape plans, and other historical information for the benefit of homeowners and others interest in architectural history.
- **Alameda Business Association, Revitalization of the Alameda Business District, San Jose.** This award recognizes an imaginative integrated marketing program of the Alameda Business Association for businesses within the Alameda District of San Jose. To highlight the area's history, the ABA undertook a five-phase program, starting with the publication of *The Alameda: the Beautiful Way*. A second phase was a walking tour, followed by a Historic festival which included historic displays highlighting the neighborhood's history, a horse-drawn railcar, and a guided history tour on a 1957 Peerless bus. Fourth was the Rose, White & Blue Parade, patterned after a parade first introduced in 1896. A fifth and final step, now under way, is a Community Based Transportation Planning Grant to advise Caltrans how the Alameda can be utilized as a transportation corridor while also preserving the character of the area.
- **Victorian Alliance of San Francisco's 2008 House Tour to Benefit the Restoration of the Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco.** The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco was organized in 1973 to support the daring home owners beginning to buy and restore San Francisco's "painted ladies." A major annual event has been their House Tour fund raiser. In 2008, the Alliance joined forces with San Francisco Architectural Heritage and the Maybeck Foundation to sponsor a house tour to restore Bernard Maybeck's Palace of Fine Arts. The tour proved a huge financial and artistic success, raising nearly \$44,000 for restoration efforts; the 1200 visitors received a handsome tour guide and access to six noteworthy houses and a church.
- **Community Service Department, City of Inglewood, Restoration, Conservation, and Relocation of the "History of Transportation" Mural, Inglewood.** This award recognizes extraordinary efforts by the City of Inglewood and its contractor, Sculpture Conservation Studio, to restore a unique WPA-era piece of public art, well-received when first

installed in 1940, but neglected and abused by the early 2000s. The last of many murals created by local artist Helen Lundeborg, the mural is one of the few examples of petrachrome mosaics (a combination of cement, aggregate, and pigment) remaining in Southern California. Originally mounted on a wall in Centinela Park, the mural had suffered damage in a car wreck and as the target of systematic tagging. The huge mural, comprised of 60 panels, was dismantled, cleaned and repaired, then reinstalled near City Hall for current and future generations to enjoy.

- **Tuolumne County Administration Office & Tuolumne County Historical Society Landmarks Committee, Return & Reconstruction of the 1897 Jamestown Branch Jail, Jamestown, Tuolumne County.** This award recognizes the efforts of the Tuolumne County Historical Society, supported logistically and financially by Tuolumne County, to correct an injustice and return the Jamestown Branch Jail to its rightful place: Jamestown. Abandoned in the 1940s, the jail was sold in 1964 to Ray Pollard, who rebuilt it in Pollardville, an Old West amusement park near Stockton. When Pollardville closed, Pollard's family offered the jail back to Tuolumne if the county would take it away. The Historical Society took the lead, formed a nonprofit, raised a whopping \$70,000 and the rest is history, a symbol of the perseverance of the people of Jamestown and Tuolumne in reclaiming a piece of their history.
- **Woman Organizing Resources, Knowledge, & Services (WORKS), Pisgah Village, Los Angeles.** This award recognizes a noteworthy effort to reuse Pisgah Village, built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to serve underprivileged Angelinos, for continued life as housing for low-income seniors. The original Pisgah Village was the creation of Dr. Finis Yoakum, an early Pentecostal leader of Los Angeles, who devoted his life to serving the poor. In 2002, the son of the last Pentecostal minister to operate the center partnered with the non-profit Woman Organizing Resources, Knowledge, and Service (WORKS) to reuse the Pisgah property. The result is an inspiring blend of good historic preservation and good works, preserving not only the buildings, but the mission of the historic Pisgah Village.
- **Equity Community Builders, LLC & partners, Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate, San Francisco.** Communities throughout California have struggled with the challenge of reusing abandoned military bases, closed during the last two decades of the 20th century. Among these, the most notable success economically as well as historically is Cavallo Point in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. When Fort Baker, an Army base built in 1906, was turned over to the National Park Service, NPS turned to a private developer, who proposed to reuse 21 historic buildings and build 14 new ones to create a lodge and retreat

center. Work on the historic buildings met the Secretary of the Interior's standards, earning a Historic Tax Credit. Enhanced by an award-winning landscape plan, the result is an impressive historical and aesthetic achievement that preserved an entire historic district while creating an immensely appealing retreat center.

- **Capital District, California State Parks, Governor's Mansion State Historic Park Special Preservation Project, Sacramento. Eureka.** This award recognizes the meticulous care with which the Capital District of California State Parks repaired and restored exterior elements of the Governor's Mansion, built in 1877 from plans by Nathaniel Goodell, also architect for the Stanford Mansion. The rehabilitation is notable because it was performed chiefly by state employees, assisted by eight members of the California Conservation Corps and students and instructors from the Historic Preservation and Restoration Technology Program at the College of the Redwoods in Eureka.

More information about the Office of Historic Preservation is available at www.ohp.parks.ca.gov.

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